

## Maintaining Proper Sentence Length

### Correcting Run-on Sentences and Sentence Fragments

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## Two common problems in writing are:

run-on sentences that might be too long  
fragments that can be too short.

run-ons need to be split up or rearranged  
sentence fragments need to be lengthened or  
reworded

## Run-on Sentences

An independent clause is a simple sentence that includes a noun (**subject**) and a verb (**predicate**). It is a complete thought.

A run-on sentence occurs when two or more independent clauses are **not properly joined**.

This example run-on sentence is called a **comma splice**, or two independent clauses that are only separated by a comma:

Go to the store, get some ice cream.

## Three ways to turn **run-ons** into **complete sentences**:

"Go to the store, get some ice cream."

### **1. Add a comma and a conjunction (and, or, but, etc.)**

- Go to the store, **and** get some ice cream.

### **2. Add a semicolon**

- Go to the store; get some ice cream.

### **3. Split the sentence into two separate ones**

- Go to the store. Get some ice cream.

## Sentence Fragments

A sentence fragment is an incomplete sentence that is missing a noun (subject) or main verb (preposition).

Sometimes a fragment has been separated from the main clause and can be repaired simply by removing a period.

**For example:** There are many things I want for my birthday. Such as a game, a toy, and money.

**Becomes:** There are many things I want for my birthday, such as a game, a toy, and money.

## More Ways to Repair Fragments

Sometimes the order of the words in a sentence can be rearranged to make the thought complete.

- For winning the race got her a prize.
- She got a prize for winning the race.

Sometimes you may need to remove a preposition

- By driving too fast can get you a ticket.
- Driving too fast can get you a ticket.

## The end.

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